

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2371

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: SOHYO CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA'S ARTICLE ON MEETING WITH AFL-CIO

REF: TOKYO 13675

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SEPTEMBER 10 ISSUE OF SOHYO HOUSE ORGAN, SOHYO SHIMBUN, CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA HEADLINED "VISIT TO AFL-CIO -- DEEPENING OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." IN SUMMARIZING AUGUST 11 LUNCHEON MEETING WITH AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ERNEST LEE, MAKIEDA SAYS THAT WHILE HE DISCUSSED WITH LEE POSSIBILITY OF AFL-CIO AND SOHYO SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO EACH OTHER'S CONVENTION, CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS THEY DID NOT REACH ANY AGREEMENT. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT IN RESPONSE TO LEE'S STATEMENT THAT MEANY WOULD NEVER APPEAR ON SAME STAGE WITH SOVIET REP, MAKIEDA NOTED THAT BOTH SOVIET SOVIET AND AMERICAN TEACHERS' UNION REPS HAD ATTENDED SAME NIKKYOSO CONVENTION AND SUGGESTED THAT US AND SOVIET REPS MIGHT ATTEND SOHYO CONVENTION ON DIFFERENT DAYS. ARTICLE LEAVES IMPRESSION THAT LEE DID NOT REPLY TO THIS SUGGESTION.

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2. SEPTEMBER 14 EDITION OF YOMIURI CARRIED SHORT ITEM

THAT MAKIEDA'S ARTICLE IN SOHYO PAPER INTENDED AS REPLY
TO LEE'S RECENT LETTER TO HIM OBJECTING TO MEDIA ACCOUNTS
OF THEIR MEETING AND REQUESTING MAKIEDA TO SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. YOMIURI ITEM SAYS
MAKIEDA CHOSE TO WRITE ARTICLE RATHER THAN HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO "SAVE FACE."

3. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE WILL APPEAR IN EMBASSY'S SEPTEMBER
22 PRESS TRANSLATION.

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4. COMMENT: MAKIEDA'S ARTICLE, RESPONDING IN SUBSTANCE IF
NOT IN FORM TO LEE'S REQUEST. SEEMS TO US FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF HIS DETERMINATION TO STEER SOHYO INTO FRIENDLIER
RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO AND TO PREVENT MINOR MISUNDER-
STANDINGS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS FROM DEVELOPING
INTO MAJOR IRRITANTS. IN THIS CASE, MAKIEDA HAS TAKEN
GREAT CARE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
HODGSON

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